

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/977,387

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for determining a selling price in a network system ~~where-in~~ in which a plurality of buyer terminals, an order-receiving center terminal and a plurality of product supplier terminals are connected via a network, ~~wherein~~ the method comprising:

A) placing an order, at the buyer terminal, is operated by a user to place an order by sending a product identifier ~~for specifying~~ which specifies a product to be ordered, an order quantity of the product and a delivery date for delivery of the product to the order-receiving center terminal;

B) determining, at the order-receiving center terminal, determines a final selling price of the product which is ordered by the buyer terminal based on a standard selling price of the ~~ordered product~~ which is ordered, a period from ~~the~~ time of order to the delivery date and a total order quantity of the product for the ~~same~~ delivery date which is specified ~~that has been accepted by the time order acceptance is closed, said total order quantity including previously accepted orders of the product for the delivery date and subsequently accepted orders of the product for the delivery date which are accepted before acceptance of orders of said product for said delivery date is closed, and sends~~ sending the determined final selling price which is determined to,

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among the plurality of product supplier terminals, a product supplier terminal of a product supplier providing which provides the ordered product which is ordered; and

C) receiving, at the product supplier terminal, ~~receives~~ the final selling price which is sent from the order-receiving center terminal.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A method for determining a selling price in a network system ~~where-in~~ in which a plurality of buyer terminals, an order-receiving center terminal and a plurality of product supplier terminals are connected via a network, ~~wherein~~ the method comprising:

A) sending, from the buyer terminal, ~~is operated by a user to send~~ a request for a delivery-date-basis base price menu for a desired product to the order-receiving center terminal together with a product identifier of the desired product;

B) sending, from the order-receiving center terminal, ~~sends~~ the delivery-date-basis base price menu to the buyer terminal, which includes base prices corresponding to a plurality of delivery dates for the product specified by the product identifier which is sent with the request for the delivery-date-basis base price menu;

C) displaying, at the buyer terminal, ~~displays~~ the delivery-date-basis base price menu, which is sent from the order-receiving center terminal, on a display device, ~~wherein after which the user places an order~~ is placed by sending an order quantity and a delivery date for the product to the order-receiving center terminal;

D) the order-receiving center terminal

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i) ~~determines~~determining a final selling price of the product ~~placed an order~~which is ordered by the buyer terminal based on a standard selling price of the ~~ordered~~ product, a period from ~~the~~ time of order to the delivery date, and a total order quantity of the product for the delivery date which is specified for the same delivery date that has been accepted by the time order acceptance is closed, said total order quantity including previously accepted orders of the product for the delivery date and subsequently accepted order of the product for the delivery date which are accepted before acceptance of orders of said product for said delivery date is closed,

ii) ~~sends~~sending the ~~determined~~ final selling price which is determined to, among the plurality of product supplier terminals, a product supplier terminal of a product supplier which provides~~providing~~ the ordered product,

iii) ~~resets~~resetting, upon accepting an order from the buyer terminal, the base price of the product in the delivery-date-basis base price menu for the delivery date which is specified by the order based on the so far accepted~~a currently accepted~~ total order quantity of the product for the ~~same~~ delivery date which is specified, said currently accepted total order quantity including previously accepted orders of the product for the desired delivery date, and a period from ~~the~~ present time ~~point~~ to the delivery date, and

iv) ~~resets~~resetting, at a predetermined ~~timing~~time, the base prices of the delivery-date-basis base price menu for respective delivery dates based on the ~~so far~~currently accepted total order quantities of the product for the respective delivery dates and periods from the present time ~~point~~ to the respective delivery dates; and

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E) receiving, at the product supplier terminal, ~~receives~~ the final selling price which is sent from the order-receiving center terminal.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A method for determining a selling price in a network system ~~where in which~~ a plurality of buyer terminals, an order-receiving center terminal and a plurality of product supplier terminals are connected via a network, ~~wherein~~ the method comprising:

A) sending, from the buyer terminal, ~~is operated by a user to send~~ a request for a delivery-date-basis base price menu for a desired product to the order-receiving center terminal together with a product identifier of the desired product;

B) sending, from the order-receiving center terminal, ~~sends~~ the delivery-date-basis base price menu to the buyer terminal, which includes base prices corresponding to a plurality of delivery dates for the product specified by the product identifier which is sent with the request for the delivery-date-basis base price;

C) displaying, at the buyer terminal, ~~displays~~ the delivery-date-basis base price menu, which is sent from the order-receiving center terminal, on a display device, ~~after which wherein~~ the user sends an estimation request is sent to the order-receiving center terminal together with a desired order quantity and a desired delivery date for the desired product;

D) the order-receiving center terminal

i) ~~estimates~~ estimating a price, upon receiving the estimation request from the buyer terminal, based on a standard selling price of the product to be estimated, a ~~so far~~ currently

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accepted total order quantity of the product to be estimated for the desired delivery date,
~~counting said currently accepted total order quantity including previously accepted orders of the~~
product for the desired delivery date and the order quantity sent with the estimation request, and
a period from ~~the present time point~~ to the delivery date, and

ii) ~~sends~~ sending the estimated price to the buyer terminal;

E) displaying, at the buyer terminal, ~~displays~~ the estimated price which is sent from the
order-receiving center terminal on a display device, ~~after which~~ wherein an order confirmation is
sent to the order-receiving center terminal ~~as operated by the user;~~

F) the order-receiving center terminal

i) ~~determines~~ determining a final selling price of the product whose order has
been confirmed by the buyer terminal based on the standard selling price of the ordered product,
a period from ~~the time of order to the delivery date,~~ and a total order quantity ~~of the ordered~~
~~product for the ordered delivery date that has been accepted by the time order acceptance is~~
~~closed,~~ said total order quantity including previously accepted orders of the product for the
delivery date and subsequently accepted orders of the product for the delivery date which are
accepted before acceptance of orders for said product on said delivery date is closed,

ii) ~~sends~~ sending the determined final selling price to, among the plurality of
product suppliers, a product supplier ~~providing~~ terminal of a product supplier which provides the
~~ordered product~~ which is ordered,

iii) ~~resets~~ resetting, upon receiving the order confirmation from the buyer terminal,
the base price of the ~~ordered~~ product which is ordered in the delivery-date-basis base price menu

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for the ~~ordered~~ delivery date of the order based on the ~~so far~~currently accepted total order quantity of the product for the ~~same~~ delivery date and a period from the present time ~~point~~ to the delivery date, and

iv) ~~resets~~resetting, at a predetermined timing, the base prices of the delivery-date-basis base price menu for respective delivery dates based on the ~~so far~~currently accepted total order quantities for the respective delivery dates and periods from the present time ~~point~~ to the respective delivery dates; and

G) receiving, at the product supplier terminal, ~~receives~~ the final selling price which is sent from the order-receiving center terminal.

Claim 4 (original): A method for determining a selling price according to claim 1, wherein the order-receiving center terminal determines the final selling price for the order such that the selling price is less expensive for a larger total order quantity and for a longer period from the time of order to the delivery date.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method for determining a selling price according to claim 4, wherein:

~~A)~~ the product supplier terminal sends product information to the order-receiving center terminal, which includes the standard selling price of the product to be sold, a price scheme including discount rates based on total order quantities and discount rates based on periods from

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the present time to delivery dates, and schedule information including delivery dates and dates for closing order acceptance for the product; and

~~B)~~the order-receiving center terminal determines ~~a~~the selling price for the order based on ~~a~~the total order quantity, ~~a~~the period from the time of order to the delivery date and the price scheme.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method for determining a selling price according to claim 2, wherein ~~A)~~the order-receiving center terminal:

i) determines the final selling price for the order such that the selling price is less expensive for a larger total order quantity and for a longer period from the time of order to the delivery date; and

ii) resets the base prices in the delivery-date-basis base price menu such that the ~~reset~~selling prices which are reset are less expensive for a larger total order quantity and for a longer period from the time of order to the delivery date.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method for determining a selling price according to claim 6, wherein:

~~A)~~the product supplier terminal sends product information to the order-receiving center terminal, which includes the standard selling price of the product to be sold, a price scheme including discount rates based on total order quantities and discount rates based on periods to

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delivery dates, and schedule information including a plurality of delivery dates and dates for closing order acceptance of the product for the plurality of delivery dates; and

~~B)~~ the order-receiving center terminal

i) determines the final selling price for the order based on ~~a~~ the total order quantity, ~~a~~ the period from the time of order to the delivery date and the price scheme, and

ii) resets the base prices in the delivery-date-basis base price menu based on total order quantities, periods from the time of order to the delivery dates and the price scheme.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method for determining a selling price according to claim 3, wherein ~~A)~~ the order-receiving center terminal:

i) determines the final selling price for the order such that the selling price is less expensive for a larger total order quantity and for a longer period from the time of order to the delivery date;

ii) resets the base prices in the delivery-date-basis base price menu such that the ~~reset~~ selling prices which are reset are less expensive for a larger total order quantity and for a longer period from the time of order to the delivery date; and

iii) estimates the price such that the selling price is less expensive for a larger total order quantity and for a longer period from the time of order to the delivery date.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method for determining a selling price according to claim 8, wherein:

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A) the product supplier terminal sends product information to the order-receiving center terminal, which includes the standard selling price of the product to be sold, a price scheme including discount rates based on total order quantities and discount rates based on periods to delivery dates, and schedule information including a plurality of delivery dates and dates for closing order acceptance for the product for the respective delivery dates; and

B) the order-receiving center terminal determines:

- i) the final selling price for the order based on ~~a~~the total order quantity, ~~a~~the period from the time of order to the delivery date and the price scheme,
- ii) resets the base prices in the delivery-date-basis base price menu based on total order quantities, periods from the time of order to the delivery dates and the price scheme, and
- iii) estimates the price based on ~~a~~the total order quantity, ~~a~~the period from the time of order to the delivery date and the price scheme.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A system for determining a selling price in a network system ~~where-in which~~ a plurality of buyer terminals, an order-receiving center terminal and a plurality of product supplier terminals are connected via a network, ~~wherein~~the system comprising:

A) the buyer terminal ~~comprises~~comprising an ordering means for placing an order as ~~operated by a user~~ by sending a product identifier of a product, an order quantity and a delivery date to the order-receiving center terminal;

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B) the order-receiving center terminal ~~comprises~~comprising a final price determining means for

i) determining a final selling price of the product which is ordered by the buyer terminal based on a standard selling price of the ordered product, a period from the time of order to the delivery date and a total order quantity, said total order quantity including previously accepted orders of the product for the delivery date and subsequently accepted orders of the product for the delivery date which are accepted before acceptance of orders for said product on said delivery date is closed~~for the delivery date that has been accepted by the time order acceptance is closed~~, and

ii) sending the ~~determined~~ final selling price which is determined to, among the plurality of product supplier terminals, a product supplier terminal of a product supplier which provides~~providing~~ the ordered product; and

C) the product supplier terminal ~~comprises~~comprising an order information receiving means for receiving the final selling price which is sent from the order-receiving center terminal.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A system for determining a selling price in a network system ~~where-in~~ in which a plurality of buyer terminals, an order-receiving center terminal and a plurality of product supplier terminals are connected via a network, ~~wherein~~the system comprising:

A) the buyer terminal ~~comprises~~comprising:

a) a delivery-date-basis base price menu requesting means for

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i) sending, ~~as operated by a user,~~ a request for a delivery-date-basis base price menu for a desired product to the order-receiving center terminal together with a product identifier of the desired product, and

ii) displaying the delivery-date-basis base price menu, which is sent from the order-receiving terminal, on a display device; and

b) an ordering means for placing an order, ~~as operated by the user,~~ by sending a desired order quantity and a desired delivery date to the order-receiving center terminal,

B) the order-receiving center terminal ~~comprises~~comprising:

a) a delivery-date-basis base price determining means for

i) sending, upon receiving the request for the delivery-date-basis base price menu, the delivery-date-basis base price menu to the buyer terminal, which includes base prices for a plurality of delivery dates for the product which is specified by the product identifier sent with the request for the delivery-date-basis base price,

ii) resetting, upon accepting an order from the buyer terminal, the base price of the product in the delivery-date-basis base price menu for the delivery date which is specified by the order based on ~~the so-far~~ currently accepted total order quantity of the product for the ~~same~~ delivery date, said currently accepted total order quantity including previously accepted orders of the product for the delivery date which is specified and a period from the present time ~~point~~ to the delivery date, and

iii) resetting, at a predetermined timing, the base prices of the delivery-date-basis base price menu for respective delivery dates based on the ~~so-far~~ currently accepted

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total order quantities of the product for the respective delivery dates and periods from the present time ~~point~~ to the respective delivery dates; and

b) a final price determining means for

i) determining a final selling price of the product which is ordered by the buyer terminal based on a standard selling price of the ordered product, a period from the time of order to the delivery date, and a total order quantity ~~for the same delivery date that has been accepted by the time order acceptance is closed~~, said total order quantity including the previously accepted orders of the product for the delivery date and subsequently accepted orders of the product which are accepted before acceptance of orders of the product for the delivery date is closed, and

ii) sending the determined final selling price to, among the plurality of product supplier terminals, a product supplier providing the ordered product; and

C) the product supplier terminal ~~comprises~~ comprising an order information receiving means for receiving the final selling price sent from the order-receiving center terminal.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A system for determining a selling price in a network system ~~where-in~~ in which a plurality of buyer terminals, an order-receiving center terminal and a plurality of product supplier terminals are connected via a network, ~~wherein~~, the system comprising:

A) the buyer terminal ~~comprises~~ comprising:

a) a delivery-date-basis base price menu requesting means for

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i) sending, ~~as operated by a user~~, a request for a delivery-date-basis base price menu for a desired product to the order-receiving center terminal together with a product identifier of the desired product, and

ii) displaying the delivery-date-basis base price menu sent from the order-receiving center terminal on a display device;

b) an estimation requesting means for

i) sending a request for estimation to the order-receiving center terminal together with an order quantity and a delivery date for the product, and

ii) displaying an estimated price, which is sent from the order-receiving terminal, on the display device; and

c) an ordering means for informing the order-receiving center terminal that the order is confirmed with the order quantity and the delivery date sent by the estimation requesting means; and

B) the order-receiving center terminal ~~comprises~~comprising:

a) a delivery-date-basis base price determining means for

i) sending, upon receiving the request for the delivery-date-basis base price menu from the buyer terminal, the delivery-date-basis base price menu to the buyer terminal, which includes base prices corresponding to a plurality of delivery dates for the product which is specified by the product identifier sent with the request for the delivery-date-basis base price,

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ii) resetting, upon accepting an order confirmation from the buyer terminal, the base price of the product in the delivery-date-basis base price menu for the delivery date specified by the order based on ~~the so far~~ currently accepted total order quantity of the product for the delivery date including previously accepted orders of the product for the delivery date which is specified and a period from the present time ~~point~~ to the delivery date, and

iii) resetting, ~~upon~~ at a predetermined timing, the base prices of the delivery-date-basis base price menu for respective delivery dates based on periods from the present time ~~point~~ to the respective delivery dates and ~~so far~~ currently accepted total order quantities of the product for the respective delivery dates;

b) a price estimating means for

i) estimating a price, upon receiving a request for estimation from the buyer terminal, based on a standard selling price of the product to be estimated, a ~~so far~~ currently accepted total order quantity of the product to be estimated for the delivery date including previously accepted orders of the product for the delivery date which is specified and counting the order quantity sent with the estimation request and a period from the present time point to the delivery date, and

ii) sending the estimated price to the buyer terminal; and

c) a final price determining means for

i) determining a final selling price for the confirmed order based on the standard selling price of the ordered product, a period from the time of order to the delivery date, a total order quantity ~~for the same delivery date that has been accepted by the time order~~

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acceptance is closed, said total order quantity including previously accepted orders of the product for the delivery date and subsequently accepted orders of the product which are accepted before acceptance of orders for said product on said delivery date is closed, and

ii) sending the determined final selling price to, among the plurality of product supplier terminals, a product supplier providing the ordered product; and

C) the product supplier terminal ~~comprises~~ comprising an order information receiving means for receiving the final selling price sent from the order-receiving center terminal.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A system for determining a selling price according to claim 10, wherein the final price determining means determines ~~a~~ the final selling price for the order such that the selling price is less expensive for a larger total order quantity and for a longer period from the time of order to the delivery date.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A system for determining a selling price according to claim 13, wherein, ~~A)~~ the product supplier terminal comprises:

a) a product information sending means for sending product information to the order-receiving center terminal, which includes the standard selling price of the product to be sold;

b) a price scheme sending means for sending a price scheme for the product specified in the product information to the order-receiving center terminal, which includes

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discount rates based on total order quantities and discount rates based on periods to delivery dates; and

c) a schedule information sending means for sending schedule information to the order-receiving center terminal, which includes delivery dates and closing dates for order acceptance for the product specified in the product information,

wherein the final selling price determining means determines the final selling price for the order based on the total order quantity, the period from the time of order to the delivery date and the price scheme.

Claim 15 (original): A system for determining a selling price according to claim 11, wherein:

the final selling price determining means determines the final selling price for the order such that the selling price is less expensive for a larger total order quantity and for a longer period from the time of order to the delivery date; and

the delivery-date-basis base price determining means resets the base prices in the delivery-date-basis base price menu such that the reset selling prices are less expensive for a larger total order quantity and for a longer period from the time of order to the delivery date.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A system for determining a selling price according to claim 15, wherein, ~~A)~~ the product supplier terminal comprises:

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a) a product information sending means for sending product information to the order-receiving center terminal, which includes the standard selling price of the product to be sold;

b) a price scheme sending means for sending a price scheme for the product specified in the product information to the order-receiving center terminal, which includes discount rates based on total order quantities and discount rates based on periods to delivery dates; and

c) a schedule information sending means for sending schedule information to the order-receiving center terminal, which includes delivery dates and closing dates for order acceptance for the product specified in the product information,

wherein the final selling price determining means determines the final selling price for the order based on the total order quantity, the period from the time of order to the delivery date and the price scheme, and

wherein the delivery-date-basis base price determining means resets the base prices in the delivery-date-basis base price menu based on a the total order quantity, a the period from the present time point to the delivery date and the price scheme.

Claim 17 (original): A system for determining a selling price according to claim 12, wherein:

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the final selling price determining means determines the final selling price for the order such that the selling price is less expensive for a larger total order quantity and for a longer period from the time of order to the delivery date;

the delivery-date-basis base price determining means resets the base prices in the delivery-date-basis base price menu such that the reset selling prices are less expensive for a larger total order quantity and for a longer period from the present time point to the delivery date; and

the price estimating means estimates a price such that the estimated selling price is less expensive for a larger total order quantity and for a longer period from the time of order to the delivery date.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A system for determining a selling price according to claim 17, wherein, A) the product supplier terminal comprises:

a) a product information sending means for sending product information to the order-receiving center terminal, which includes a standard selling price of a product to be sold;

b) a price scheme sending means for sending a price scheme for the product specified in the product information to the order-receiving center terminal, which includes discount rates based on total order quantities and discount rates based on periods to delivery dates; and

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c) a schedule information sending means for sending schedule information to the order-receiving center terminal, which includes delivery dates and closing dates of order acceptance for the product specified in the product information,

wherein the final selling price determining means determines the final selling price for the order based on ~~a~~the total order quantity, ~~a~~the period from the time of order to the delivery date and the price scheme,

wherein the delivery-date-basis base price determining means resets the base prices in the delivery-date-basis base price menu based on ~~a~~the total order quantity, ~~a~~the period from the present time point to the delivery date and the price scheme, and

wherein the price estimating means estimates a price based on a total order quantity, a period from the present time point to the delivery date and the price scheme.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium ~~for storing a~~
~~program for realizing a system for determining a selling price in a network system where a~~
~~plurality of buyer terminal computers, an order-receiving center terminal computer and a~~
~~plurality of product-supplier terminal computers are connected via a network, wherein the~~
~~program uses:~~

~~A) the buyer terminal computer as an ordering means for placing an order, as operated by~~
~~a user, by sending a product identifier for specifying a product to be ordered, an order quantity~~
~~and a delivery date to the order-receiving center terminal computer;~~

~~B) the order-receiving center terminal computer as a final price determining means for~~

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~~i) determining a final selling price of the product ordered by the buyer terminal computer based on a standard selling price of the ordered product, a period from the time of order to the delivery date and a total order quantity for the same delivery date that has been accepted by the time order acceptance is closed, and~~

~~ii) sending the determined final selling price to, among the plurality of product supplier terminal computers, the product supplier terminal computer providing the ordered product; and~~

~~C) the product supplier terminal computer as an order information receiving means for receiving the final selling price sent from the order-receiving center terminal computer which executes a method for determining a selling price in a network system in which a plurality of buyer terminals, an order-receiving center terminal and a plurality of product supplier terminals are connected via a network, the method comprising:~~

~~A) placing an order, at the buyer terminal, by sending a product identifier which specifies a product to be ordered, an order quantity of the product and a delivery date for delivery of the product to the order-receiving center terminal;~~

~~B) determining, at the order-receiving center terminal, a final selling price of the product which is ordered by the buyer terminal based on a standard selling price of the product which is ordered, a period from time of order to the delivery date and a total order quantity of the product for the delivery date which is specified, said total order quantity including previously accepted orders of the product for the delivery date and subsequently accepted orders of the product for the delivery date which are accepted before acceptance of orders of said product for said delivery~~

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date is closed, and sending the final selling price which is determined to, among the plurality of product supplier terminals, a product supplier terminal of a product supplier which provides the product which is ordered; and

C) receiving, at the product supplier terminal, the final selling price which is sent from the order-receiving center terminal.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium ~~for storing a program for realizing a system for determining a selling price in a network system where a plurality of buyer terminal computers, an order-receiving center terminal computer and a plurality of product supplier terminal computers are connected via a network, wherein the program uses:~~

~~A) the buyer terminal computer as:~~

~~a) a delivery date basis base price menu requesting means for~~

~~i) sending, as operated by a user, a request for a delivery date basis base price menu to the order-receiving center terminal computer together with a product identifier of a desired product, and~~

~~ii) displaying the delivery date basis base price menu sent from the order-receiving terminal computer on a display device, and~~

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~~b) an ordering means for placing an order, as operated by the user, by sending a desired order quantity and a desired delivery date to the order receiving center terminal computer;~~

~~C) the order receiving center terminal computer as:~~

~~a) a delivery date basis base price determining means for~~

~~i) sending, upon receiving the request for the delivery date basis base price menu, the delivery date basis base price menu to the buyer terminal computer, which includes base prices for a plurality of delivery dates for the product specified by the product identifier sent with the request for the delivery date basis base price menu;~~

~~ii) resetting, upon accepting an order from the buyer terminal computer, the base price of the product in the delivery date basis base price menu for the delivery date specified by the order based on the so far accepted total order quantity of the product for the delivery date and a period from the present time point to the delivery date, and~~

~~iii) resetting, upon a predetermined timing, the base prices of the delivery date basis base price menu for respective delivery dates based on periods from the present time point to the respective delivery dates and so far accepted total order quantities of the product for the respective delivery dates; and~~

~~b) a final price determining means for~~

~~i) determining a final selling price of the product ordered by the buyer terminal computer based on a standard selling price of the ordered product, a period from the~~

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~~time of order to the delivery date and a total order quantity for the same delivery date that has been accepted by the time order acceptance is closed, and~~

~~ii) sending the determined final selling price to, among the plurality of product supplier terminal computers, a product supplier terminal computer providing the ordered product; and~~

~~D) the product supplier terminal computer as an order information receiving means for receiving the final selling price sent from the order receiving center terminal computer~~which executes a method for determining a selling price in a network system in which a plurality of buyer terminals, an order-receiving center terminal and a plurality of product supplier terminals are connected via a network, the method comprising:

A) sending, from the buyer terminal, a request for a delivery-date-basis base price menu for a desired product to the order-receiving center terminal together with a product identifier of the desired product;

B) sending, from the order-receiving center terminal, the delivery-date-basis base price menu to the buyer terminal, which includes base prices corresponding to a plurality of delivery dates for the product specified by the product identifier which is sent with the request for the delivery-date-basis base price menu;

C) displaying, at the buyer terminal, the delivery-date-basis base price menu, which is sent from the order-receiving center terminal, on a display device, wherein an order is placed by sending an order quantity and a delivery date for the product to the order-receiving center terminal;

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D) the order-receiving center terminal

i) determining a final selling price of the product which is ordered by the buyer terminal based on a standard selling price of the product, a period from time of order to the delivery date, and a total order quantity of the product for the delivery date which is specified, said total order quantity including previously accepted orders of the product for the delivery date and subsequently accepted order of the product for the delivery date which are accepted before acceptance of orders of said product for said delivery date is closed,

ii) sending the final selling price which is determined to, among the plurality of product supplier terminals, a product supplier terminal of a product supplier which provides the ordered product,

iii) resetting, upon accepting an order from the buyer terminal, the base price of the product in the delivery-date-basis base price menu for the delivery date which is specified by the order based on a currently accepted total order quantity of the product for the delivery date which is specified, said currently accepted total order quantity including previously accepted orders of the product for the desired delivery date, and a period from present time to the delivery date, and

iv) resetting, at a predetermined time, the base prices of the delivery-date-basis base price menu for respective delivery dates based on currently accepted total order quantities of the product for the respective delivery dates and periods from the present time to the respective delivery dates; and

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E) receiving, at the product supplier terminal, the final selling price which is sent from the order-receiving center terminal.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium ~~for storing a program for realizing a system for determining a selling price in a network system where a plurality of buyer terminal computers, an order receiving center terminal computer and a plurality of product supplier terminal computers are connected via a network, wherein the program uses:~~

A) the buyer terminal computer as:

a) ~~a delivery date basis base price menu requesting means for~~

i) ~~sending, as operated by a user, a request for a delivery date basis base price menu to the order receiving center terminal computer together with a product identifier of a desired product, and~~

ii) ~~displaying the delivery date basis base price menu sent from the order-receiving terminal computer on a display device;~~

b) ~~an estimation requesting means for sending a request for estimation to the order receiving center terminal computer together with an order quantity and a delivery date of the product and for displaying an estimated price sent from the order receiving terminal computer on the display device; and~~

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~~e) an ordering means for informing the order receiving center terminal computer, as operated by the user, that the order is confirmed with the order quantity and the delivery date sent from the estimation requesting means;~~

~~B) the order receiving center terminal computer as:~~

~~a) a delivery date basis base price determining means for~~

~~i) sending, upon receiving the request for the delivery date basis base price menu from the buyer terminal computer, the delivery date basis base price menu to the buyer terminal computer, which includes base prices for a plurality of delivery dates for the product specified by the product identifier sent with the request for the delivery date basis base price menu;~~

~~ii) resetting, upon receiving an order confirmation from the buyer terminal, the base price of the product in the delivery date basis base price menu for the delivery date specified by the order based on the so far accepted total order quantity of the product for the delivery date and a period from the present time point to the delivery date, and~~

~~iii) resetting, upon a predetermined timing, the base prices in the delivery date basis base price menu for respective delivery dates based on the so far accepted total order quantities of the product for the respective delivery dates and periods from the present time point to the respective delivery dates;~~

~~b) a price estimating means for~~

~~i) estimating a price, upon receiving the request from the buyer terminal computer, based on a standard selling price of the product to be estimated, a so far accepted total~~

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~~order quantity of the product for the delivery date counting the order quantity sent with the estimation request and a period from the present time point to the delivery date, and~~

~~ii) sending the estimated price to the buyer terminal computer; and~~

~~e) a final price determining means for~~

~~i) determining a final selling price for the order confirmed by the buyer~~

~~terminal computer based on a standard selling price of the ordered product determined by the~~

~~supplier of the product, a period from the time of order to the delivery date and a total order~~

~~quantity for the same delivery date that has been accepted by the time order acceptance is closed,~~

~~and~~

~~ii) sending the determined final selling price to, among the plurality of the~~

~~product supplier terminal computers, the product supplier terminal computer providing the~~

~~ordered product; and~~

~~C) the product supplier terminal computer as an order information receiving means for receiving~~

~~the final selling price sent from the order receiving center terminal computer~~which executes a

method for determining a selling price in a network system in which a plurality of buyer

terminals, an order-receiving center terminal and a plurality of product supplier terminals are

connected via a network, the method comprising:

A) sending, from the buyer terminal, a request for a delivery-date-basis base price menu
for a desired product to the order-receiving center terminal together with a product identifier of
the desired product;

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B) sending, from the order-receiving center terminal, the delivery-date-basis base price menu to the buyer terminal, which includes base prices corresponding to a plurality of delivery dates for the product specified by the product identifier which is sent with the request for the delivery-date-basis base price;

C) displaying, at the buyer terminal, the delivery-date-basis base price menu, which is sent from the order-receiving center terminal, on a display device, wherein the user sends an estimation request is sent to the order-receiving center terminal together with a desired order quantity and a desired delivery date for the desired product;

D) the order-receiving center terminal

i) estimating a price, upon receiving the estimation request from the buyer terminal, based on a standard selling price of the product to be estimated, a currently accepted total order quantity of the product to be estimated for the desired delivery date including previously accepted orders of the product for the desired delivery date, the order quantity sent with the estimation request, and a period from present time to the delivery date, and

ii) sending the estimated price to the buyer terminal;

E) displaying, at the buyer terminal, the estimated price which is sent from the order-receiving center terminal on a display device, wherein an order confirmation is sent to the order-receiving center terminal;

F) the order-receiving center terminal

i) determining a final selling price of the product whose order has been confirmed by the buyer terminal based on the standard selling price of the ordered product, a period from

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time of order to the delivery date, and a total order quantity, said total order quantity including previously accepted orders of the product for the delivery date and subsequently accepted orders of the product for the delivery date which are accepted before acceptance of orders for said product on said delivery date is closed,

ii) sending the determined final selling price to, among the plurality of product suppliers, a product supplier terminal of a product supplier which provides the product which is ordered,

iii) resetting, upon receiving the order confirmation from the buyer terminal, the base price of the product which is ordered in the delivery-date-basis base price menu for the delivery date of the order based on the currently accepted total order quantity of the product for the delivery date and a period from the present time to the delivery date, and

iv) resetting, at a predetermined timing, the base prices of the delivery-date-basis base price menu for respective delivery dates based on the currently accepted total order quantities for the respective delivery dates and periods from the present time to the respective delivery dates; and

G) receiving, at the product supplier terminal, the final selling price which is sent from the order-receiving center terminal.